

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 10863 292256Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3202
INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMCONSUL CURACAO
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 10863

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, CI, MX
SUBJECT: PCC CHIEF LUIS CORVALAN WELCOMED BY MEXICO

1. ANY SUSPICION THAT MEXICO, UNDER JOSE LOPEZ PORTILLO IS GOING TO REVERSE LUIS ECHEVERRIA'S REJECTION OF THE PINOCHET GOVERNMENT, SHOULD BE QUICKLY DISMISSED AFTER THE WARM OFFICIAL WELCOME GIVEN TO CHILEAN COMMUNIST LEADER LUIS CORVALAN WHO VISITED MEXICO JUNE 16-20. (HIS VISIT IS REPORTEDLY PART OF A LATIN AMERICAN SWING, MOST LIKELY FOR PUBLIC RELATIONS PURPOSES, THROUGH THE ADDRESSSEE COUNTRIES AND CUBA.)

2. CORVALAN ARRIVED FROM CARACAS IN TIME FOR THE INAUGURATION BY PRESIDENT LOPEZ PORTILLO OF THE INTERNATIONAL RESISTANCE MUSEUM "SALVADOR ALLENDE". THE INAUGURATION WAS ALSO ATTENDED BY ALLENDE'S WIDOW, OTHER CHILEAN EXILE LEADERS, MEXICAN MINISTER OF EDUCATION PORFIRIO MUNOZ LEDO (THE GOM HOUSE RADICAL), AND OTHER GOM OFFICIALS. THE "MUSEUM" IS REALLY AN EXHIBIT OF 140 WORKS OF ART DONATED BY THE ARTISTS TO BE SOLD TO RAISE MONEY "TO LIBERATE THE CHILEAN PEOPLE."

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3. BESIDES THIS CEREMONY CORVALAN WAS ALSO RECEIVED PRIVATELY BY LOPEZ PORTILLO, BY THE SECRETARY OF GOVERNMENT REYES HEROLES, AND BY CARLOS SANSORES PEREZ, PRESIDENT OF MEXICO'S RULING PARTY, THE PRI. IT WAS NOTEWORTHY THAT PUBLIC COMMENTS BY GOM OFFICIALS, WHILE EFFUSIVE IN THEIR SUPPORT OF THE CHILEAN PEOPLE, WERE VERY

LOW KEY ON REFERENCES TO HEGEMONY OR IMPERIALISM, AND MADE NO DIRECT MENTION OF THE US.

4. CORVALAN WAS DIRECT IN HIS CRITICISMS OF THE US. WHILE SAYING NOTHING NEW, HE SPENT MUCH OF HIS TIME WITH THE USUAL CLAQUE OF COMMUNIST PARTY LEADERS, DIPLOMATS FROM BLOC EMBASSIES, AND REPRESENTATIVES OF "SOLIDARITY" GROUPS. AND DESPITE PRIVATE COMMENTS TO US TO THE CONTRARY, THE MEXICAN PRESS AFFORDED CORVALAN WIDESPREAD AND FAVORABLE COVERAGE.

5. IN RELATED EVENTS, SHORTLY AFTER CORVALAN'S DEPARTURE FOR HAVANA, A GROUP OF CHILEAN EXILES BEGAN A HUNGER STRIKE AT THEIR "CASA DE CHILE" IN SYMPATHY WITH THE STRIKERS AT ECLA HEADQUARTERS IN SANTIAGO. THOMPSON

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Message Attributes

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